

79123-1132

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Continuation application based on prior application:

Inventors: Diver, et al.

Serial No.: 10/093,242

Filing Date: March 8, 2002

Group No.: 3721

For: PATTERN FORMER AND METHOD OF PATTERN FORMING FOR
WRAPPED BAKERY PRODUCTS

Box: PATENT APPLICATION
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, kindly amend the above-identified continuation application as follows:

Rewrite the Cross-Reference to Related Application:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation application of application Serial Number 10/093,242 filed March 8, 2002, currently pending, which is a continuation of application Serial Number 09/587,127 (abandoned), which claims the benefit of application Serial Number 60/159,627 filed October 14, 1999 (lapsed).

In the Claims:

Cancel claims 1-64.

1-64. Canceled.

Please add the following new claims

65. (New) In a pattern former of the type having a vacuum turntable for receiving wrapped bakery products and for assembling the received wrapped bakery products into a predetermined pattern, the improvement comprising:

a transfer apparatus including a pusher plate for moving groups of wrapped bakery products onto the turntable;

means for moving the pusher plate back and forth between a first location wherein the pusher plate receives the wrapped bakery products and a second location wherein the wrapped bakery products are located on the vacuum turntable;

means for positioning the pusher plate in a vertical orientation as the transfer apparatus moves groups of wrapped bakery products onto the turntable and into the second location and for pivoting the pusher plate into a horizontal orientation as the pusher plate is moved away from the turntable and into the first location.

66. (New) The improvement according to Claim 65 further characterized by a slip sheet extending from the turntable and a pusher plate for moving patterns of wrapped bakery products from the turntable along the slip sheet and into bakery trays.

67. (New) The improvement according to Claim 65 further including a second transfer apparatus for moving patterns of wrapped bakery products from the turntable into bakery trays comprising:

a second pusher plate for moving patterns of wrapped bakery products from the turntable into bakery trays.

means for positioning the pusher plate in a vertical orientation during movement of

patterns of wrapped bakery products into bakery trays under the action of the pusher plate and for pivoting the pusher plate into a horizontal orientation during return movement thereof.

68. (New) In a pattern former of the type having a vacuum turntable for receiving wrapped bakery products and for assembling the received wrapped bakery products into a predetermined pattern, the improvement comprising:

a transfer apparatus for moving predetermined patterns of wrapped bakery products from a turntable into bakery trays;

means for moving the pusher plate back and forth between a first location wherein the pusher plate engages the wrapped bakery products on the turntable and a second location wherein the bakery products are moved into the bakery tray;

means for positioning the pusher plate in a vertical orientation during movement of patterns of wrapped bakery products into bakery trays under the action of the pusher plate and for pivoting the pusher plate into a horizontal orientation during return movement thereof.

69. (New) The improvement according to Claim 68 further including a second transfer apparatus including a second pusher plate for moving groups of wrapped bakery products onto the vacuum turntable; and

means for positioning the pusher plate in a vertical orientation as the transfer plate moves groups of wrapped bakery products onto the turntable and for pivoting the pusher plate into a horizontal orientation as the pusher plate is moved away from the turntable.

Respectfully submitted,

MICHAEL A. O'NEIL, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael A. O'Neil", written over a horizontal line.

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